

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

It is respectfully requested that this "after final" amendment and reply be considered and entered, since: a) it does not change the scope of the claims (since the claim amendments are minor in nature), and b) it is believed to place this application in condition for allowance.

In this amendment and reply, no claims are being canceled or added.

Claims 5, 6 and 16-17 are being amended, whereby the amendments to these claims are not believed to affect the scope of those claims (but rather they are made to place these claims in better form for U.S. patent practice).

This amendment amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 5-8 and 11-14.

In the Office Action, claims 5-8, 11-14 and 16-18 were objected to because of minor informalities listed on page 2 of the Office Action. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 5, 6 and 16 have been amended based on the helpful suggestions made by the Examiner in the Office Action, and it is submitted that presently pending claims 5-8, 11-14 and 16-18 are unobjectionable.

In the Office Action, claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. The preambles of claims 17 and 18 have been amended in accordance with the helpful suggestions made by the Examiner in the Office Action, and it is

submitted that presently pending claims 17 and 18 now fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 9-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,539,101 to Black; and claims 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Black in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,924 to Ahn. These rejections are traversed for at least the reasons given below.

As discussed during a telephone interview between Applicant's representative and Examiners Mahmoudi and Popovici on March 3, 2004, it was agreed that the filing of the verified translation of the priority document for this application had effectively removed the Black reference as "prior art" with respect to this application (since, as explained during the interview and in the previously-filed reply, a U.S. patent application can only go back as much as one year before the U.S. patent application filing date for domestic priority purposes).

Therefore, the rejections of claims 1-4, 9-10 and 15-18 based at least partially on Black have been overcome by the previous submission of the verified translation of the priority document for this application.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account

No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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